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Bangalore Mirror

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Source: GWI, all internet users aged 18+, Feb 2025, and 1P Internal Data, India, June 2025.

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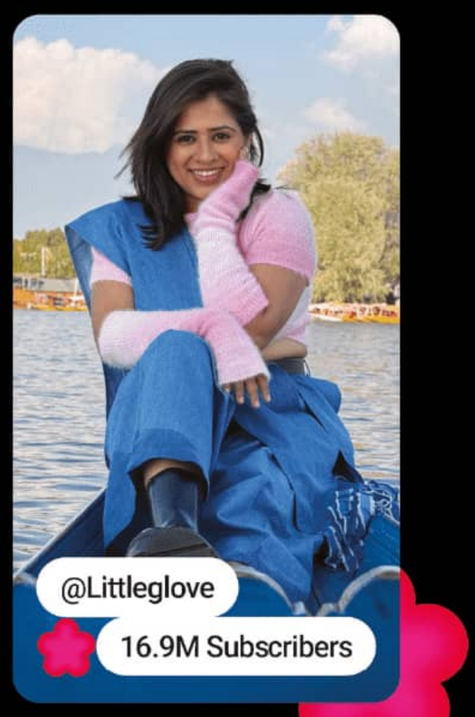

#nanobanana

#Thrifting

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YTshopping

#makeuphacks

#desibaddie

Source: GWI, all internet users aged 18+, Feb 2025, and 1P Internal Data, India, June 2025.

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QUANTUM LEAP

Bengaluru at core of India's ambitious National Quantum Mission, an 8-year programme with outlay of over Rs 6,000 crore

PAGE 3

LIFE ON RENT

Location, access, infra remain key in recent 8-10% spike in rentals as societies near IT hubs or metro lines command premium rents

PAGE 5

50% rebate may offer temporary relief to commuters and a revenue windfall to authorities, but thousands of motorists still remain in the dark about their pending violations, simply because no one tells them about it

EVERYTHING'S JUST FINE. TILL IT IS NOT

Texts are sent on single violation, but to know about accumulated fine one needs to log on to traffic police website

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A city commuter who prided himself on being a rule-abiding driver often said that he had never received a single traffic violation. But that confidence collapsed when the recent 50% rebate on pending fines prompted him to check his vehicle number on the traffic app. To his disbelief, a ₹1,000 signal-jump fine was waiting for him, one he had never been informed about.

He remembered the moment vividly. "I had been waiting at a red light when a car behind me kept honking, wanting me to move aside. Trying to make way, I nudged forward and unknowingly came to a halt on the zebra crossing. The enforcement camera captured this as a violation," he said.

"It wasn't even my fault," he said, frustrated, but the announcement of 50% rebate brought him some respite and he convinced himself to clear the dues to carry on with his no-fine record.

For many motorists like him, the rebate has come as a relief. People who believed they had spotless records are discovering fines only now, simply because they never received any notification. Since there is no consistent system of sending alerts, commuters remain unaware until they manually check the traffic police website or app, which most rarely do.

Commuters say that while they occasionally receive an SMS for a single traffic violation, there is no system that alerts them about pending or accumulated fines. Many point out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"Alerts may fail only when a vehicle isn't linked to a valid contact number at the RTO. While we don't send reminders about pending fines, an intimation is always issued when the violation is recorded**
>
> —Traffic police official

Megapolis moment

City ranks among world's most crowded megacities, reflecting intense inward migration, concentrated economic activity and limited land expansion

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Bengaluru's surge in the latest UN's World Urbanisation Prospects 2025 has pushed the city firmly onto the global megacity map. With its population touching 13.19 million in 2025, the city has jumped from 37th place in 2000 to 24th — one of the sharpest rises anywhere in the world.

This momentum comes from its booming tech sector, steady inflow of migrants and strong job creation. While cities like Delhi and Mumbai still rank higher in total population, Bengaluru now stands out as India's fastest-growing major metro, reshaping the country's urban landscape at an unprecedented pace.

Despite not being India's largest city, Bengaluru now ranks among the world's most crowded megacities, with an estimated urban density of 21,000 people per sq km, placing it just behind Ahmedabad (22,000) and far above many global metros of similar size. The UN dataset of 510 cities with populations above one million shows that only a handful of hyper-dense centres; Mumbai (27,000), Kasai (25,400), Beni (25,200), Karachi (25,000), Surat (24,000), Hong Kong's Tamar district (23,000), Kinshasa (22,700) and Mogadishu (22,400) pack more people into every square kilometre.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Musical bliss

The South Asian Symphony Orchestra returns to Bengaluru for an unforgettable evening built around one of humanity's most powerful musical statements—Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with over 120 musicians on stage.
Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: November 29, 7 pm

02 Handful of art

'The Festival of Handmade' is bringing together over 200 groups from across the country in a vibrant and exciting market that showcases exquisite handicrafts.
Where: Jayamahal Palace Hotel;
When: November 26 to 30

03 Leafing through ideas

Green Literature Festival, a vibrant platform dedicated to identifying, celebrating and promoting books, writing, conversations and various other cultural expressions on the environment, is back for its 5th edition.
Where: Century Club, Cubbon Park;
When: November 29, 9.30 am

04 Epic fun

Atta Galatta is hosting 'Epics with Arshia and Aparna', a unique session designed to make the timeless tales of the Ramayana and Mahabharata both educational and thrilling for young audiences.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar;
When: November 29, 4 pm

05 Life in spotlight

As part of the Bengaluru Theatre Festival Season 2, Anupam Kher will be narrating and dramatising the important events of his life in a play titled 'Kucch bhi ho sakta hai'.

Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte;
When: December 5, 8 pm

Play your stress away, says study

Research findings suggest regular Krida Yoga can help improve physical health and psychological well-being, with participants showing noticeable progress

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Krida Yoga is a play-based approach to yoga which focuses on games and activities to improve well-being

Study highlights that Krida Yoga may be promising approach for addressing stress in persons with neurological and psychiatric disorders

A new study published in the International Journal of Yoga highlights the potential of Krida Yoga as a feasible intervention to reduce stress and improve well-being among in-patients receiving integrative mental healthcare at National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS). The study points out that Krida Yoga, as a standalone intervention, has not been extensively researched in mental health settings, however it offers promising avenues for addressing stress in persons with neurological and psychiatric disorders.

Most of these previous yoga-based interventions have reported improvements in stress, anxiety, physical health, and psychological well-being, with no negative effects indicating that Krida Yoga, along with other forms of yoga, is beneficial. In this context, the current study aimed to develop and test the feasibility of a Krida Yoga group programme for in-patients of the Department of Integrative Medicine, NIMHANS, specifically assessing its impact on stress and well-being.

A total of 30 in-patients with neurological and psychiatric conditions participated in a 15-day Krida Yoga programme. The sessions, conducted thrice weekly for one hour by the researcher, a certified yoga trainer used the Perceived Stress Scale-14 (PSS-14) and WHO Well-being Scale (WHO-5) to measure outcomes on days 0 and 15.

The study points out that pre- and post-quantitative findings showed a significant reduction in stress, from 35.20 (5.51 per cent) to 19.86 (3.9 per cent), along with a marked improvement in well-being scores, from 9.36 (1.67 per cent) to 15.93 (1.93 per cent). Thematic analysis of qualitative feedback from participants further supported the observed benefits, mirroring the quantitative results.

According to the authors, the findings combining both quantitative and qualitative data suggest moderate to high feasibility of conducting Krida Yoga sessions for in-patients in mental health settings. The study concludes that the Krida Yoga programme is feasible and safe to administer and should now be tested for its effectiveness through larger, randomised controlled trials.

Based on the findings, the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS, along with staff and students from the Department of Integrative Medicine, introduced the concept of Krida Yoga at a community connect session at Royal Public School. The session saw active participation from 93 students across grades 7 to 10.

Dr Aarti Jagannathan, Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS, introduced Krida Yoga as a joyful approach to yoga designed to promote mental well-being, enhance body flexibility, and cultivate calmness, peace, and concentration. The Integrative Medicine team, led by Dr P Sai Manoj, engaged students through innovative yoga-based games. The session also included simple, practical yoga postures that participants could easily incorporate into their daily routines.

Govt tightens vigilance on medical spas

The Karnataka government has brought medical spas under the purview of the Health Department by classifying them as medical establishments, aiming to curb illegal operations flourishing under the guise of wellness services. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the department had received numerous complaints about unauthorised spas offering cosmetic procedures using chemicals without proper expertise, and even providing radiation therapy by exploiting elderly patients with bone and joint issues. Despite earlier action, the government felt stronger oversight was essential and has now brought these centers under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007.

The minister said the order will help regulate laser treatments, liposuction, hair transplants, IV hydration therapy, and other cosmetic procedures, ensuring quality and preventing unqualified practitioners from running skin clinics. **–BMB**

Kids account for most pollution claims

Air pollution in India has reached levels severe enough to significantly damage children's health, with a new report revealing that 43 per cent of all pollution-related health insurance claims come from children under the age of ten. As toxic air increasingly triggers illnesses in younger populations, these claims now account for a major share of insurance usage. Delhi tops the list for pollution-linked claims, followed by Bengaluru and Hyderabad, while Tier-2 cities such as Jaipur, Lucknow, and Indore show similar patterns, underscoring a nationwide public-health crisis.

The study warns that air pollution has now escalated into a full-fledged public health emergency. Among adults, those aged 31–40 account for 14 per cent of such claims, while people above 60 make up only 7 per cent. Pollution-related diseases contribute to about 8 per cent of total hospital admissions, and treatment costs have risen by 11 per cent. **–BMB**

Home-based care for cancer patients

Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology is launching home-based palliative care services to support cancer patients who are unable to travel to the hospital. Using corporate CSR funds, the institute will deploy a team of specialist doctors, nurses, and medical staff to provide symptom management, pain relief, and psychological support directly at patients' doorsteps. The initiative aims to improve quality of life, reduce physical and emotional distress, and prevent unnecessary emergency admissions, easing both patient burden and hospital crowding.

An official said that in the first phase, the service will cover a 15-km radius, offering home visits, essential medicines, and telemedicine guidance for those already treated at the institute. A dedicated mobile van equipped for palliative care will operate with a trained team that will consult families, provide tailored treatment, and offer guidance on patient management, the official noted. **–BMB**

B'luru at centre of India's ₹6,003-cr quantum mission

With multiple leading institutions pioneering quantum projects, city emerges as key centre playing pivotal role in placing India at forefront of global quantum race

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Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, is a crucial part of the National Quantum Mission

India has taken a decisive step into the future of advanced computing with the launch of the National Quantum Mission (NQM), an ambitious eight-year programme with an outlay of Rs 6,003.65 crore. The mission seeks to position the country among the world leaders in quantum technologies, and Bengaluru has emerged as the nerve centre of this effort.

IISc hosts Quantum Computing T-Hub

According to data shared by the Centre in a Lok Sabha reply recently, four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) are being established in 2024-25, focusing on Quantum Computing, Quantum Communication, Quantum Sensing & Metrology, and Quantum Materials & Devices. The Quantum Computing T-Hub has been set up at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, comprising six technical groups with 30 researchers and 21 institutions across India, involving both government and private players.

B'luru's role in cutting-edge research

Several pioneering projects are underway in the city. The Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru is working on neutral atoms, while the Indian Institute of Science is spearheading photonic technology development. These efforts complement parallel projects in Mumbai and Pune addressing challenges such as qubit design, error correction, and scalability—crucial steps toward building indigenous and globally competitive quantum systems, the Lok Sabha data said.

Homegrown quantum innovation

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has already backed a range of indigenous projects. Notably, startups supported under NQM are making breakthroughs, including the development of a 25-qubit quantum processor based on superconducting technology. The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy and DRDO, has successfully tested a 6-qubit system with an indigenous processor, marking a significant milestone for India's quantum roadmap.

Several pioneering projects such as The Raman Research Institute's work on neutral atoms are underway in city

Timelines and deliverables

The mission has been structured with three key timelines—3, 5, and 8 years. Within three years, the aim is to build intermediate-scale quantum computers with 20-50 physical qubits, scaling up to 1000 qubits by the eighth year. A call for proposals has been launched to support cutting-edge research in quantum algorithms and startups to ensure scalability and practical applications in fields like communication security, healthcare, and finance.

Nerve centre of India's quantum push

With IISc, Raman Research Institute, and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research among the leading institutes involved, Bengaluru has firmly established itself as the nerve centre of India's quantum journey. The city's ecosystem, blending academic excellence with startup innovation, is expected to be pivotal in placing India at the forefront of the global quantum race.

2 rescued from Jayanagar building blaze

A fire incident at the GBA office in Jayanagar Complex led to swift rescue efforts on Monday.

Two fire tenders were deployed, and Fire and Emergency Services personnel quickly brought the blaze under control, and two people who were trapped inside a lift when the fire erupted were rescued. One individual, Krishnegowda, was safely evacuated from the lift, while another, Arun Prasad, received first aid before being admitted to Bengaluru Hospital for further evaluation.

Senior officials, including Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, inspected the site and confirmed that while the electrical duct was affected, there was no structural damage to the building.

To determine the cause of the incident, a multi-agency committee has been constituted. As a precautionary measure, power supply remains disconnected, and shops and offices are temporarily closed. Authorities have also directed the removal of unauthorised footpath encroachments around the complex to ensure public safety. **BMB**

Online gaming firms under ED scanner

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, conducted multi-city searches in Bengaluru and Gurugram between November 18 and 22 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The raids were carried out at the offices of Nirdesa Networks Pvt Ltd (NNPL), Gameskraft Technologies Pvt Ltd (GTPL), and the residences of their directors and other accused.

The probe stems from a Karnataka Police FIR alleging large-scale fraud by Pocket52, an online gaming platform run by NNPL.

Officials found that despite the nationwide ban on real-money gaming, the company continued to hold over Rs 30 crore in escrow without refunding players. Eight escrow accounts containing Rs 18.57 crore have been frozen.

In a parallel action, the ED raided four locations linked to WinZO Games Pvt Ltd in Delhi and Gurugram, freezing Rs 505 crore in suspected proceeds of crime, including bank deposits, bonds, and mutual funds, under Section 17(1A) of PMLA. The case is based on FIRs alleging cheating, account blocking, impersonation, misuse of PAN details, and heavy player losses. Investigators found that WinZO continued offering real-money gaming in markets like the US, Brazil, and Germany using the same platform, even after the national ban. The ED alleges the platform allowed users to play against algorithms instead of real opponents and restricted withdrawals. Investigators also traced USD 55 million (Rs 489.90 crore) to a US bank account held by WinZO US Inc, flagged as a shell entity controlled from India. **BMB**

Nursing students struck by Vande Bharat train, die

Two nursing students from Kerala were killed after coming under a Vande Bharat Express near Chikkabanavara railway station on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday. The victims, identified as Sterlin Eliza Shaji (19) and Justin Joseph (20), were first-year BSc Nursing students at a private college in the city and were residing in a paying guest accommodation.

The incident occurred around 2.35 pm when the Belagavi-bound Vande Bharat Express was passing through the area. Initial reports suggested the students had come under the train, but it was unclear whether it was an accident or suicide. The Bengaluru Rural Railway Police Station has registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and launched a detailed investigation.

Investigation led to the examination of CCTV footages by the Railway Police, which confirmed that the incident was a case of suicide. The victims' bodies were found mangled on the tracks shortly after the train passed.

An officer from Railway Police said no suicide note or similar material was recovered. Investigators are now speaking to the victims' families and friends to piece together the events and possible reasons leading up to the tragedy. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

Student found murdered, male friend is prime suspect

A 21-year-old student was found murdered inside her rented home in Thammenahalli under the Madanayakanahalli police limits on Monday. The victim, identified as Devishri, hailed from Andhra Pradesh and was pursuing a BBA degree at a private college in the city.

The incident came to light when the house owner noticed unusual silence and no movement from her room. On checking, he found her lying on the bed with severe injuries to her head and other parts of her body. He immediately alerted the police, who arrived at the scene, broke open the door, and conducted a spot inspection.

Preliminary investigation suggests that a male friend who frequently visited her home is the prime suspect, and police believe he may have fled after the incident. A case of murder has been registered, and efforts are underway to trace the suspect, who is currently on the run. **BMB**

Conman arrested for cheating doctor of ₹2.7 crore

The Vijayanagar police have arrested a man who allegedly impersonated an official from the Prime Minister's Office and claimed to be the "adopted son" of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, cheating a doctor from Jammu & Kashmir of Rs 2.7 crore.

The accused, identified as Sujayendra, had reportedly boasted that he regularly shared the stage with senior political leaders, including the Deputy Chief Minister, and could secure approvals for an Ayurvedic hospital near Devanahalli. Police said he convinced the doctor that he would help set up a "villa-style premium Ayurvedic hospital" and, under various pretexts, collected Rs 2.7 crore.

Following the doctor's complaint, the Vijayanagar police registered a cheating case and arrested him. During the probe, officers found that Sujayendra had been jailed twice earlier and was involved in four cheque bounce cases. He had also forged close ties with a relative of an IAS officer and frequently appeared on stage with seers and senior state leaders to project influence.

Police are now verifying whether he duped others using similar methods. Documents seized from his residence are being examined to map the extent of his activities. **BMB**

Not okay: Plan to turn serene campus into noisy marketplace

Concerned citizens, students, farmers urge GKVK authorities halt proposed flower market inside research campus citing noise, congestion, waste, massive tree loss risks

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A group of concerned citizens, students, alumni, farmers, and environment activists met the dean of the College of Horticulture at the University of Agricultural Sciences on Monday (November 24) and submitted a memorandum opposing the international flower market proposed on five acres of land inside the campus. The group, drawing on environmental concerns, academic implications, and legal considerations, requested Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) authorities not to allow the establishment of the commercial market within the educational and research campus.

"We met the dean and handed over our memorandum. We expressed our concerns about the proposed project within the campus, including that the market will attract heavy vehicular movement—especially from midnight to early morning—leading to severe noise, congestion, and waste accumulation. This will destroy the serene academic atmosphere essential for research, classes, and campus life," said Vijay Nishant, founder of Project Vruksha, who led the initiative.

The state government's plan to establish the international flower market on the GKVK campus has already drawn strong opposition from residents in the area. Since its announcement, the project has sparked protests not only from residents but also from environmentalists across the city due to the proposed felling of 942 trees on the campus. Opponents say the list of trees proposed to be removed to make way for the market includes important horticultural species such as cashew, mango, coconut, pomelo, and jackfruit, along with forest species like mahogany and silver oak, all part of a 12- to 13-year-old plantation. The site also houses 422 cashew trees aged around 13 years, representing several varieties that serve as a vital resource for student education, farmer training, and ongoing research activities.

The project sparked citywide protests over the proposed felling of 942 campus trees

Opposition groups warn allowing a commercial market inside GKVK sets dangerous precedent for future encroachments on academic and green spaces across the city, risking long-term institutional damage

A few days earlier, officials from the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) visited the campus on November 3 to inspect the location proposed to house the market. Their visit further intensified concerns among those opposing the project.

Contrary to the justification given by the government that the market will benefit farmers, members of the group said otherwise. "It will destroy farmer-training fields, demonstration orchards, and seedling production blocks. The project will also disrupt farmer melas, workshops, and outreach programs conducted annually, and will increase the transport burden for rural flower growers who will have to navigate city traffic. It will eliminate access to germplasm sources, too. Thus, farmers will face a net loss," the memorandum noted.

Members who submitted the document said that several non-academic and dry lands on the city's outskirts could house the market with minimal ecological impact. They stressed that there is no compelling reason for situating a market inside an academic campus, pointing out that the land is public property intended for education and research, not commercial development. One member stated that allowing a market would set a dangerous precedent for future encroachments on green and academic spaces across the city, adding that if their request is ignored, the group will intensify efforts through peaceful agitations at multiple levels.

The group further highlighted that establishing a commercial market inside the GKVK campus violates several laws and rules, including the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, Wildlife Protection Act, and mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment protocols set by the Central Environment Ministry.

Waste fee is unfair burden on compliant apartments

Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) move to levy a user fee for solid-waste management without providing any service has become a significant burden for apartment residents. Under the Solid Waste Management Rules introduced in April 2025, apartments with more than 100 units are classified as bulk waste generators and can avoid the user fee if they hand over waste to empanelled private agencies. However, apartments with 50–99 units are excluded from this exemption, forcing each household to pay ₹1,000–₹1,200 annually in addition to existing waste-handling charges and the mandatory garbage cess paid with property tax. Across the city, more than 1,400 smaller complexes have long been paying private contractors about ₹15,000 per month for wet and dry waste collection. Residents say the new rule unfairly redefines who qualifies as a bulk generator, pushing long-compliant apartments—many managing waste privately since 2016—into a higher fee bracket despite receiving no service from GBA.

Adding to their frustration, the authority has not clarified whether households that paid the waste-user fee with property tax will receive refunds. Civic groups and apartment associations are demanding reimbursement and inclusion of 50–99-unit apartments in the bulk-generator category, arguing the regulation is flawed and financially unfair.management by smaller communities.ment by smaller communities. **–BMB**

Relief to 4 teachers after 19-month salary freeze

The Karnataka High Court has sharply criticised the State government for withholding the salaries of four teachers from a government-aided school for 19 months, calling the action a violation of constitutional protections against forced labour.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, while allowing the teachers' petition, observed that compelling any employee to work without pay "strikes at the heart of human dignity and stands in clear violation of Article 23 of the Constitution, which proscribes begar in all its forms."

The Court directed the authorities to immediately release the pending salaries, ordering the second respondent to pay the teachers for the period between May 2024 and the present date on or before December 4, 2025, failing which the State must pay each petitioner ₹25,000 towards litigation costs. The dispute began when the government abruptly withheld salaries in May 2024 without stating any reason. Despite stay orders from a coordinate bench and repeated Court directions barring coercive action, the authorities issued show-cause notices and cancelled the teachers' appointments twice. The Appellate Authority set aside the cancellations, but the same order was reissued.

Throughout the ordeal, the teachers continued working and documented their attendance, while their representations for salary went unanswered. Rejecting the State's justification, the Court held that payment of wages remained "beyond contest" and condemned the prolonged non-payment as tantamount to practising begar. **–BMB**

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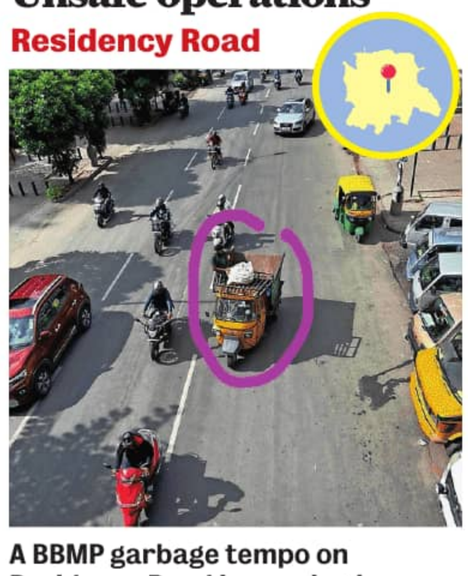
Persistent neglect
JC Nagar

JC Nagar's Munireddy Palya has seen no improvement for a year, remaining neglected even under the watch of MLA Rizwan Arshad.

Waste zone
Burughal Mutt Road

Garbage heaps continue to choke a tree on Burughal Mutt Road, highlighting worsening civic neglect in Vishweshwarapura, Basavanagudi.

Unsafe operations
Residency Road


A BBMP garbage tempo on Residency Road is running in a hazardous, dilapidated condition, with a worker forced to ride precariously inside the waste compartment.

Insanity claim fails, court stresses proof

The Karnataka High Court has reiterated that an insanity defence in criminal cases cannot rest on mere assertion, placing the burden on the accused to prove unsoundness of mind at the time of the offence. Justice MI Arun made this observation while dismissing a petition by murder-accused Alphonsa Saldana, who challenged a trial court's refusal to refer him to a Medical Board. Saldana claimed mental illness and lack of mens rea under Section 45 of the Indian Evidence Act, Section 311 CrPC, and Section 105 of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017.

The High Court noted that expert opinions are not binding; the accused's mental state during the crime is assessed via behaviour, medical history, treatment records, and testimony. Justice Arun upheld the trial court, observing that existing evidence—including testimony from a doctor, psychiatrist, neighbour, and medical documents—did not establish insanity. Section 105 arises only if evidence under Section 84 IPC exists and is disputed; Saldana's failure to prove this meant no relief. **BMB**

IN HIGH COURT

Bike-taxi operators fight government ban

The Karnataka High Court on Monday continued hearing appeals filed by transport aggregators Rapido, Uber and Ola, challenging a single-judge order that prohibited bike-taxi operations until guidelines were framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Appearing before Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Joshi, the appellants argued that the State Government had created an "artificial deadlock" by refusing to frame rules while relying on their absence to justify the ban.

Senior Advocate Dhyan Chinnappa, representing bike-taxi owners, said motorcycles are recognised as transport vehicles under Sections 178(3) and 80(2), and the State cannot override this by policy. Citing a 1991 Supreme Court ruling, he argued the ban infringed citizens' constitutional right to carry on trade under Article 19. The State said that motorcycles cannot carry passengers for hire, though private two-wheelers may be used for deliveries. Advocates for Ola and Uber urged interim permits under Section 93. Hearing continues after the State responds. hearing will resume after the State responds. **BMB**

SIT opposes Revanna's bail, victim at risk

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Monday opposed former MP Prajwal Revanna's request before the Karnataka High Court to suspend his life sentence and grant bail in a rape case. Special Public Prosecutor Prof Ravivarma Kumar argued that releasing him would endanger not only the victim but society at large. Revanna's political influence, and his lack of cooperation during the investigation, Kumar warned that ongoing cases—including an abduction case involving the victim and Revanna's parents—could be compromised if he were released. He emphasised that repeated sexual assaults on a domestic worker during the COVID-19 lockdown, allegedly filmed and used to threaten her, made the case too serious to grant bail.

Kumar outlined nine bail principles, noting delays didn't apply and urging the court to prioritise the case per Supreme Court guidance on MP/MLA trials. He added a conviction can rely on the victim's testimony, though corroboration exists. Revanna, convicted on August 2 under IPC and IT Act provisions, will have his appeal heard again Tuesday. **BMB**

KAUSHIK JN

Caught in a rainy reverie

A young child walks thoughtfully along a rainy sidewalk as sunlight breaks through, making the falling droplets sparkle like tiny stars. The busy street behind fades into shadow, turning this simple moment into a quiet, cinematic scene full of calm and innocence.

Tenants facing steep hikes

Double-digit hikes hit tech corridors as premium gated communities draw record demand

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As Bengaluru races through 2025, its rental market shows no signs of cooling. While new luxury projects continue to transform the skyline, rental prices in certain neighbourhoods have jumped sharply, well above the city's average, fuelled by tech inflows, improved metro access, and the rising appeal of high-end gated communities.

According to NoBroker statistics, average rentals in Bengaluru have grown by 8–10% citywide, but a few key corridors have recorded double-digit hikes of 12–15%, driven largely by tech migration, metro connectivity, and demand for premium gated communities. Areas such as KR Puram, Bellandur, Electronic City, BTM Layout, and Ramamurthy Nagar have seen a significant rise.

Saurabh Garg, Co-founder & Chief Business Officer of NoBroker, said, "We are seeing strong rental escalation across Bengaluru, especially in micro-markets such as Bellandur and Whitefield, where proximity to global-standard tech parks is driving double-digit hikes in gated communities. KR Puram is also witnessing sharp increases due to better connectivity and upcoming metro expansion. Electronic City continues to command rising rents because of its major tech campuses and growing demand for managed homes. Even established areas such as BTM Layout and Ramamurthy Nagar are seeing 10–12% growth, while prime pockets like Koramangala, Indiranagar, and Hebbal have recorded 10–15% jumps as quality inventory remains limited."

Vivek Singhal, Co-founder & CEO of Multigen India, pointed out that the rental market has clearly entered a new phase, one where data, micro-market insight, and transparency matter more than ever for both landlords and tenants. "Tech-led corridors such as Bellandur, Whitefield, KR Puram, Electronic City, and Sarjapur have seen double-digit rent escalations, driven by metro connectivity, premium gated communities, and a strong return-to-office trend. At the same time, established neighbourhoods like Koramangala, Indiranagar, and Hebbal are witnessing intense competition due to limited supply and sustained tenant demand. Based on our analysis, rentals across key micro-markets are likely to see a further 5–6% increase over the coming year, especially for well-located, well-designed communities. For a developer, this underlines the importance of thoughtful planning, efficient layouts, and generous shared spaces that keep homes rentable, future-ready, and capable of sustaining healthy yields over time," said Singhal.

From KR Puram to Whitefield, rents are rising due to metro access, IT migration, and limited quality homes

The recent spike in Bengaluru's rental rates is being driven by a combination of factors. Location, access, and infrastructure remain key, with societies near IT hubs or metro lines commanding premium rents. The appeal of reduced commute times and improved connectivity is translating directly into higher rent differentials. Amenities, security, and well-managed societies also make properties more competitive. Central and semi-central areas face limited supply, pushing demand and rents up. The return-to-office trend is further boosting demand for housing near workplaces and IT corridors, said Garg.

IN BRIEF

FIR filed against loan recovery agents

Hundreds of people who borrowed from Avanti Finance Private Limited and made payments (equal monthly instalments) in cash to recovery agents of Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited are now in trouble. They are required to pay the EMIs, which were previously paid in cash to the recovery agents, once again to Avanti Finance Private Limited, as the agents of Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited did not deposit the money with Avanti Finance Private Limited.

Indiranagar Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) on November 7, 2025 based on a complaint lodged by Krishna B, the authorised signatory of Avanti Finance Private Limited. The FIR was registered under Sections 3(5), 316(2), and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023. It was registered against Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited, situated at Lakshmi Complex, Chikkasandra, Bengaluru, and Pratapchandra Shetty, CEO, Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited, as well as Manjappa HL, Secretary of Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited.

Avanti Finance Private Limited has filed a complaint against Jananidhi Souharda Cooperative Limited, alleging that the cooperative failed to deposit Rs 65.18 lakh collected from borrowers and instead used the funds for personal purposes. According to the FIR, Jananidhi had acknowledged the collection in an email dated June 25, 2025, and agreed to pay Rs 45 lakh as a final settlement to Avanti Finance. However, the payment has not been made to date. The complaint highlights concerns over the cooperative's handling of loan repayments and raises questions about accountability and transparency in financial transactions involving borrowers.

An employee of a microfinance company advised borrowers to avoid paying EMIs in cash to recovery agents, describing safer alternatives such as cheques or UPI payments as direct electronic payments are a more secure option for borrowers. —**Y Maheswara Reddy**

City has 21,000 people per sq km

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bengaluru's position in this global top tier underscores how rapidly its built-up footprint is tightening, reflecting intense inward migration, concentrated economic activity and limited land expansion, all of which are pushing the city closer to the density profile of the world's most compact urban hubs. The result: severe stress on housing, transport, water, sanitation and green cover. Daily life now mirrors that density, from shrinking open spaces to gridlocked roads and rising service pressures across neighbourhoods.

According to the report, between 2000 and 2025, Bengaluru clocked an average annual population growth of 3.12 per cent, outpacing not only all Indian metros but almost every major city in the world. Only a handful such as Luanda, Ho Chi Minh City and Bangkok grew faster. In contrast, Mumbai (0.94 per cent), Kolkata (0.82 per cent), Chennai (1.53 per cent) and even Delhi (2.08 per cent) have seen far slower expansion. Bengaluru's rapid growth places it alongside Asia's new-age boom cities such as Dhaka and Bangkok, marking it as a key urban hotspot in the region's economic landscape.

Asian context

The report states that Asia now dominates the world's urban map, with nine of the ten largest cities located on the continent. Jakarta, Dhaka and Tokyo lead the pack, while Delhi ranks fourth with 30.2 million people. Bengaluru sits in the middle tier by size but belongs to the same high-velocity cluster as several emerging Asian giants. The city's demographic momentum mirrors that of fast-expanding capitals like Ho Chi Minh City and Dhaka, signalling its growing integration into Asia's broader urban growth narrative.

Looking ahead, Bengaluru's growth tapers modestly, reaching 14.26 million by 2050 while holding its global rank at 24. This slowdown masks a deeper challenge. An expert said if the city's geographic footprint does not expand meaningfully, even moderate population increases will intensify density and pressure on infrastructure. "Meanwhile, cities like Karachi, Lagos and Cairo are set to grow far faster, reshaping global rankings and absorbing larger population waves. Bengaluru's challenge lies not in growth alone, but in managing the urban load that growth brings," said the expert.

According to the report, three factors underpin Bengaluru's surge. First, its economic magnetism—powered by technology, services and innovation—continues to draw talent nationwide. Second, compact administrative boundaries have forced a rising population into limited space, accelerating density. Third, steady migration of young workers has kept demographic momentum high.

An expert noted that the UN's findings underline an urgent need for strategic intervention. The expert said that Bengaluru must evolve from a fast-growing city into a well-managed dense city, which demands targeted zoning reforms, higher density around transit hubs, expanded mass transit capacity, stronger water and waste systems, preserved green spaces and a long-term plan for peripheral growth. Vinesh K, an urban planner, said, "Bengaluru's megacity moment has arrived. The question now is whether the city can translate demographic momentum into sustainable urban living—or be overwhelmed by the pace of its own success."

1,00,974 cases settled, ₹2,86,87,550 collected till Nov 24

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that they are expected to repeatedly check the traffic police website or app on their own, even for violations they never realised had occurred.

Motorists with vehicles registered before 2019 say they rarely receive any messages at all, as their phone numbers were never linked to the RTO database. This lack of updated contact information leads to further issues, especially during fitness tests or ownership transfers, when long-forgotten fines suddenly appear.

Others add that even when a violation alert comes through, it reflects only one instance, not the total amount owed. "You might get notified about a single fine, but the rest you have to keep tracking yourself," said one commuter who cleared all pending dues only after the rebate was announced. Many people discover their violations only during random police checks, where they are reprimanded publicly and asked to pay on the spot, adding to their frustration.

With the Traffic Department announcing the 50% discount for the second time, reluctant motorists, frustrated, unaware, or burdened by unnoticed violations, are finally clearing long-pending dues. For the police, this surge in payments is helping erase years of arrears and strengthen the state's revenue stream.

Yet the core problem remains. Without a proper notification system, commuters say they cannot be faulted for fines they were never informed about. The rebate may offer temporary relief, but thousands of motorists still remain in the dark about their pending violations, simply because no one tells them.

'Alerts sent only once at the time of violation'

A senior police official clarified that motorists should not expect repeated alerts about old dues. "Traffic violation alerts are sent only at the time the violation occurs, not thereafter. Each fine stays valid for five years, so a violation from 2021 will continue to appear until 2026. Alerts may fail only when a vehicle isn't linked to a valid contact number at the RTO. While we don't send reminders about pending fines, an intimation is always issued when the violation is recorded," the official said.

Between November 21 and 22, a total of 80,483 cases were settled across all available payment modes, generating 2,29,40,500 in collections. By November 23, the numbers increased further, with a total of 1,00,974 cases settled and 2,86,87,550 collected, reflecting a significant surge in motorists clearing their long-pending dues.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Raziya Begum Syed Noordeen D/o Syed Noordeen Syed Azeezudden R/o Prestige Park Square Unit No 3175 Basavanapura Gate Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to Raziya Begum for all purposes

I, Aman Rukhsar S/o Rukhsar Ali, aged about 21 years, R/o Room 503, Atharv Boys Hostel, 4th Cross, SG Palaya, Bangalore -560029, have changed my name from Aman Rukhsar Ali to Aman Rukhsar vide Affid. No. IN-KA02380789729974X dated 21-11-25 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar.

I, SURESH residing at 2057/1, 1st Floor, Sabari, 5th Cross, Prashanthnagar, T Dasara halli, Bengaluru – 560057. I, have changed my name to SURESH KAMANNAVAR. Vide affidavit dated 24/11/2025 sworn before notary. T V Bhadravijaya Bengaluru.

I, Kiran Kumar. K, S/O Kanna Ramdas, R/o No 32, 3rd Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar BLR-560010 changed My Name from Kiran Kumar to Kiran Kumar. K for all further purposes.(K full form is Kanna.)

I, Saniya Khanum J W/o Mohammed Assadulla Khan S R/o #91,1st Floor,9th Cross, SBM Colony Yeshwanthpur B'lore-560022 have changed my name to J Sania.

I Vakeel Hakeem Rahmani S/o Abdul Rahmani 35 Bengaluru-32 have changed my name to Abdul Vakkel Abdul Rahaman for all purposes

I Nirupama mukund R/o No 244 1st cross Royal shelters layout Bengaluru-76,Have changed my name to Nirupama mukund magge.

I, Bharat Narayana Residing at No. 18, Below National School, Nayandahalli, Bengaluru-39 have Changed my name to BHARATH NARAYANA. S Vide affidavit dated 26-08-2025 Before Notary H.S. Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

I, Shrihaan Kodagihalli Naveen S/o Naveen Kodigehalli Manjunath R/o No 19, Saamanvaya Yashoda Nagar, Jakkur Plantation, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Shrihaan Kodigehalli Naveen for all purposes.

I, Nelufar W/o Farooq Ahmed Residing at : No.10, D Block, Banath Street, Near Noor Masjid, Rashad Nagar, Arabic College, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my name to Neelufar for all purposes

I, DIAS WAYLON DEANCIS S/o Francis Gabriel Dias, R/@ No.K-0909, Krypton Brigade EL Dorado, Aerospace Park, Huvinayakanahalli, B'luru - 562149 changed my name to WAYLON D for all purposes.

I, Prabhavathi w/o Chandrashekara reddy H H,#332 bannerghatta rd Bengaluru 560083,I have change my name to Prabhavathi Sompura Lakshmaiah Reddy

I Parijatha W/O, Murari V R/o #92, 1stmain, 6th Cross, Narasimha Swamy Layout, Laggere, Bengaluru-560058 have changed my name to Parijatha Yadav .

I, Namita Varadaraddi Rangappanavar w/o Srinivas Thimmanna Naik R/o Binkadakatti, Gadag 582103 have changed my name to Namita Rangappanavar. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, MEENA KUMARI, W/o. Darshan Rathod, residing at No. 7, Flat No. 003, Govind Castle Apartment, Govindappa Road, Gandhi Bazar, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004, have changed my name to MEENA RATHOD by virtue of marriage, vide affidavit dated 24.11.2025, sworn before notary K.S Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

I, Jayaram Sundareson Resident of No.172, Kayals Nest, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, CQAL Layout, Attur, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064 have changed my name to SUNDARESAN JAYARAM vide Affidavit dated 18.11.2025. sworn before Notary D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, Veenashree Nagaraj w/o Atul Saluja R/o 326, 6th main, 2nd cross, ML Puram Lyt, 2nd stage, 2ph WOC road, Bengaluru 560086 have changed my name to Veenashree. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Samishka Kodagihalli Naveen D/o Naveen Kodigehalli Manjunath R/o No 19, Saamanvaya Yashoda Nagar, Jakkur Plantation, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Samishka Kodigehalli Naveen for all purposes.

I, Lokendar Singh S/O Narayan Singh R/o 38A/35 Dayanand Nagar dayalbagh agra 282005 have changed name from Lokendar Singh to Lokendra Singh.

I Ganeshakumara G B R/o kachigebailu, maruthipura, shivamogga-12, Have changed my name to Ganesh G B for all the purpose.

I, Naveen Kodagihalli Manjunath S/o Manjunath Kodigehalli Nanjundappa R/o No 19, Saamanvaya Yashoda Nagar, Jakkur Plantation, B'luru-560064 have changed my name to Naveen Kodigehalli Manjunath for all purposes.

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BM Trippin' Tales

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Karnataka opens up Thippagondanahalli farm to boost horticulture tourism

State promotes farm-based learning with hands-on activities, crop exposure and guided walks across a 35-acre biodiversity-rich horticulture campus

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The farm's nursery and grafted seedling unit serve as a learning hub for visitor's keen on understanding propagation and modern horticulture techniques

Horticulture tourism is getting a push in Karnataka with the Horticulture Department opening its farm in Thippagondanahalli, near Nelamangala, for public visits. The format is planned as a one-day outing where visitors can move through active farm sections and observe cultivation routines without staged demonstrations. The plan is to give a direct and clear understanding of farm work, plant varieties and ongoing departmental practices.

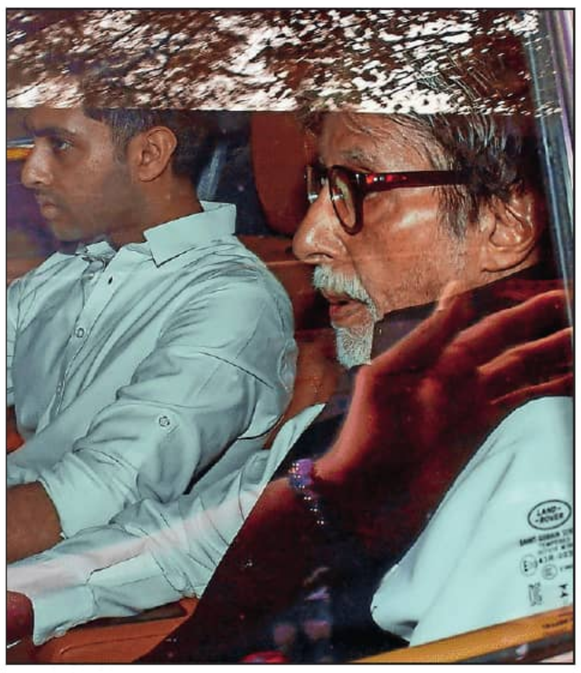
A 35-acre area in Thippagondana halli has been earmarked for horticulture tourism and plant biodiversity. The farm features more than 200 varieties of fruit trees, medicinal plants and commercial crops. Visitors can walk through different plots, read information boards and interact with staff to learn the purpose and method behind maintaining each section. Schools and colleges have been encouraged to include the farm in their study tours, and the Tourism Department has partnered with the Horticulture Department to support the initiative.

Officials say horticulture tourism provides an opportunity to see crops up close, learn basic cultivation techniques and understand the processes behind nursery operations. The model allows visitors to see how different species are grown, maintained and harvested throughout the year. Farmers seeking exposure to modern horticultural approaches can also use the facility as a practical reference point.

The farm offers hands-on activities such as pot-making, nursery work, vermicompost preparation and basic beekeeping. Nature walks and cycling trails are part of the layout, while short sessions on modern horticulture practices and terrace gardening are included during the visit. A small sales counter supplies grafted seedlings raised on-site.

With newer formats of tourism gaining popularity across the state, officials say horticulture tourism is finding increasing interest, especially among young professionals in Bengaluru exploring agriculture as a hobby or supplementary skill. They believe the mix of exposure, learning and technical guidance may encourage more people to consider horticulture in a meaningful way.

 # Anthony Bourdain biopic – Antonio Banderas says he was 'cleaning fish every single day' on Anthony Bourdain biopic set



Dharmendra: December 08, 1935-November 24, 2025

'End of an era'

Film industry pays heartfelt homage to movie legend Dharmendra

A "bonafide legend" of Indian cinema, "an inspiration for generations" and the "original He-Man" is how celebrities, including Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, Allu Arjun and Karan Johar, remembered Dharmendra who breathed his last on Monday.

Dharmendra, the star who wrote himself into showbiz legend in a 65-year career spanning 300 films ranging from "Satyakam' to "Sholay", passed away at the age of 89, according to a police statement. However, there has been no confirmation from the family.

Akshay shared a photo of the late cinema star, saying Dharmendra will continue to live on through his movies.

"Growing up, Dharmendra ji was the hero every boy wanted to be... our industry's original He-Man, thank you for inspiring generations. You'll live through your movies and the love you spread. Om shanti," he wrote on X.

Ajay remembered Dharmendra for his "warmth, generosity and presence".

"The industry has lost a legend... and we've lost someone who has shaped the very soul of our cinema. Rest in peace Dharam ji, Om Shanti," he added.

Karan, who directed Dharmendra in his 2023 directorial "Rocky aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani", posted a long note on Instagram.

"It is an end of an ERA..... a massive mega star... the embodiment of a HERO in mainstream cinema... incredibly handsome and the most enigmatic screen presence ... he is and will always be a bonafide Legend of Indian Cinema... defining and richly present in the pages of cinema history ... but mostly he was the best human being... he was so loved by everyone in our industry," the director wrote.

Karan said Dharmendra's death has left "a gaping hole in the industry".

"He only had immense love and positivity for everyone... there will always be the one and only DHARAMJI... we love you kind Sir.... We will miss you so much.... The heavens are blessed today.... It will always be my blessing to have worked with you.... And my heart says with respect, reverence and love," he added.

Kareena Kapoor Khan shared series of pictures on her Instagram handle and captioned them, "Forever in power."

Madhuri Dixit called the actor an "icon who defined grace, strength, and humility."

"Dharam ji, your loss leaves a void that can never be filled. Your legacy goes beyond the screen, it lives in the love and admiration of millions... Your remarkable body of work, your humility, and your ever-endearing spirit have left an indelible mark on this industry."

Aamir Khan's production banner shared a note on his production banner, which read, "You'll forever remain in our hearts. Dharam ji rest in peace. Team AKP."

Manoj Bajpayee said Dharmendra was his parents "favourite and one of my childhood heroes".

"He had a warmth you felt even before he spoke. His dignity, his humour, and the way he carried himself on and off screen left a deep mark on everyone who met him or watched him. Losing him feels personal. His films, his love for people, and the gentle strength he stood for will stay with us," he posted on Instagram.

Suniel Shetty posted, "Strength wrapped in grace. Stardom wrapped in warmth. Heroism wrapped in a pure heart. Thats the legacy of Dharam Paaji. To the world he was the He-Man. To those who knew him, he was pure warmth."

Kajol shared a picture of her son Yug alongside the late actor.

"The OG of the Good Man is gone and the world is poorer for it.. somehow it seems like we are only losing the good people in it. Kind to the core and loved always..." she wrote.

Dharmendra, born Dharam Singh Deol in Punjab in 1935, enjoyed a remarkable six-decade career, featuring in over 300 films and headlining classics such as "Sholay", "Chupke Chupke", "Satyakam, "Anupama", "Seeta Aur Geeta" and many others. He was widely celebrated for his versatility across action, romance and comedy.

Dharmendra is survived by his wife Prakash Kaur, Hema Malini, sons Sunny and Bobby Deol, and daughters Vijeta, Ajeeta, Esha and Ahana. —PTI

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Priyanka Mohan on board

The makers of 666 Operation Dream Theatre announced the onboarding of one of South India's most sought-after and talented actors, Priyanka Mohan. She now joins the cast of 666 Operation Dream Theatre, led by Karunada Chakravarthy Dr. Shiva Rajkumar and versatile actor Dhananjaya aka Nata Rakshasa.

Priyanka has carved a niche for herself across Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada cinema.

With acclaimed roles in blockbuster movies Priyanka now joins the Hemanth M Rao directorial bond esque spy drama set in the 80s.

"I have grown up watching Dr. Shiva Rajkumar sir's films. It is a dream come true to be a part of '666 Operation Dream Theatre'. To be working with the incredibly talented Dhananjaya and be a part of such an ensemble cast is something that I'm looking forward to eagerly. I had manifested working with Hemanth M Rao, didn't think it would happen so soon," said Priyanka.

The team is all set to launch the first look of Priyanka Mohan in the coming days. The third schedule of the film is set to begin in the first week of December. 666 Operation Dream Theatre is being bankrolled by Dr.Vaishak J Gowda under the Vaishak J Films banner. Charan Raj is the music director while Advaitha Gurumurthy is the cinematographer.

JLo dazzles in Manish Malhotra saree at Udaipur wedding

International superstar Jennifer Lopez lit up Udaipur on Sunday night, delivering a spectacular performance at Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju's wedding reception party, leaving guests enthralled by her high energy and star power.

The singer delivered a high-octane show as she blended her global hits like 'Waiting for Tonight', 'Play', 'Save Me Tonight', 'On the Floor', and 'Get Right', among others, further teaming them up with her captivating dance moves. In visuals going viral on social media, audiences were seen grooving along to her chart-toppers, creating an electrifying atmosphere that reflected both celebration and sheer entertainment. Wizcraft Weddings has shared several clips from the functions of Netra and Vamsi, including those of JLo's performance.

For the performance, Lopez chose a mix of stunning, bold outfits, including a black dress with cut-out designs and long boots, followed by a shimmery golden bodysuit paired with matching knee-high boots. Fans were delighted to see Jennifer Lopez performing live and with such high energy. **ANI**

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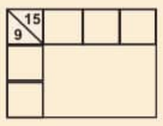
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

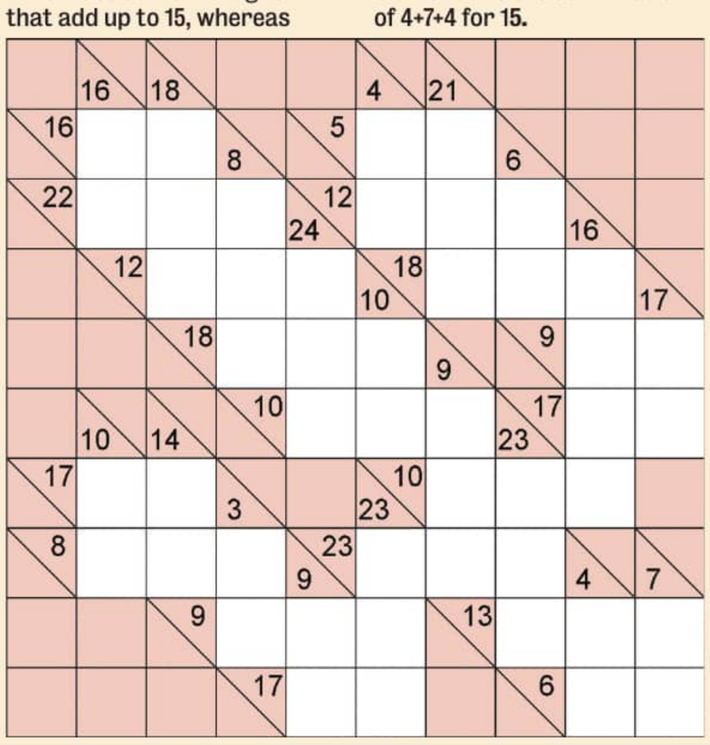
The product of two numbers is -1 and the sum of their reciprocials is 7.875. What are the numbers?

Kakuro

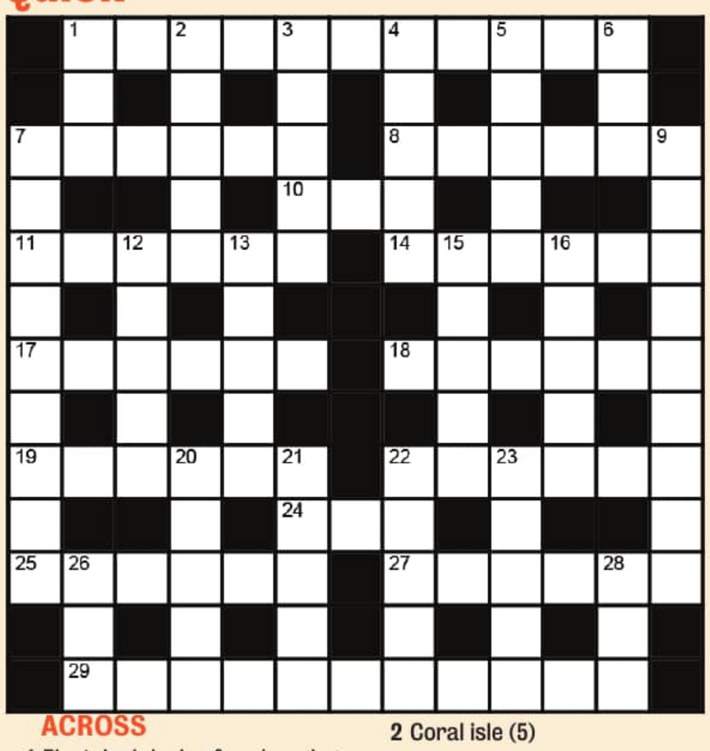
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Electrical device for changing AC to DC or vice versa (11)
7 Pious or holy (6)
8 Harbhajan Singhs petname (6)
10 Gads son? (3)
11 Large country homes (6)
14 A hanging ornament (6)
17 Stare at (6)
18 Self-centredness? (6)
19 ____ down : dilutes–especially milk? (6)
22 Associate on very friendly terms (6)
24 _ _ carte (1,2)
25 Subsided like storm (6)
27 Chartered (6)
29 In which the newspaper readers give air to their own personal problems and woes? (5,6)

DOWN

1 Golfers support (3)
2 Coral isle (5)
3 Fills to satisfaction (5)
4 Plutos path? (5)
5 Water surrounding castles (5)
6 Indian rule (3)
7 Former Karnataka Chief Minister who went on to become Prime Minister of India (4,5)
9 Pakistani capital (9)
12 Walk or run informally speaking? (3,2)
13 Larry ___ : well-known harmonica player (5)
15 English as a prefix (5)
16 Descendent, young member of the family (5)
20 Vegetarians __ __ meat ? (3,2)
21 Alas (5)
22 One of the Marx Brothers (5)
23 African language (5)
26 Pastoral sound (3)
28 A long time (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS G

TUJ TLQE-LVEMAK JDRMDT EJC QRUPMAK WUPA.

Linemaro

I only thought about you once today... and never stopped

Mindchow

When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old

Joke of the day

Last week I told my psychiatrist, 'I keep thinking about suicide,' and he told me from now on I have to pay in advance

Loop

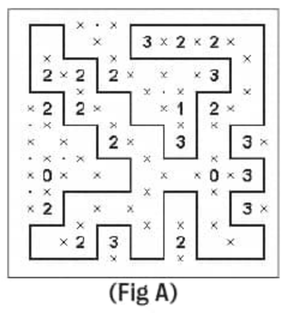
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

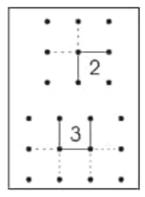
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

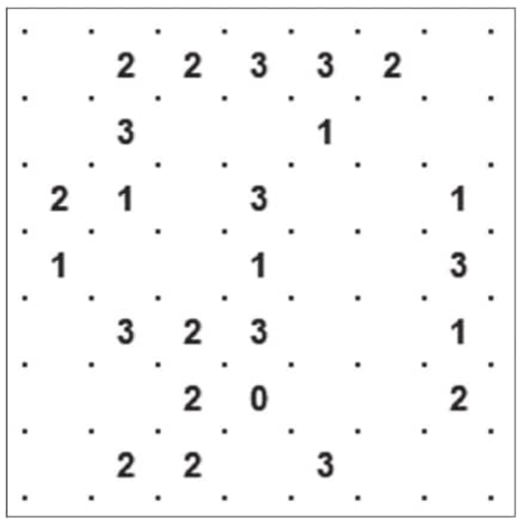
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



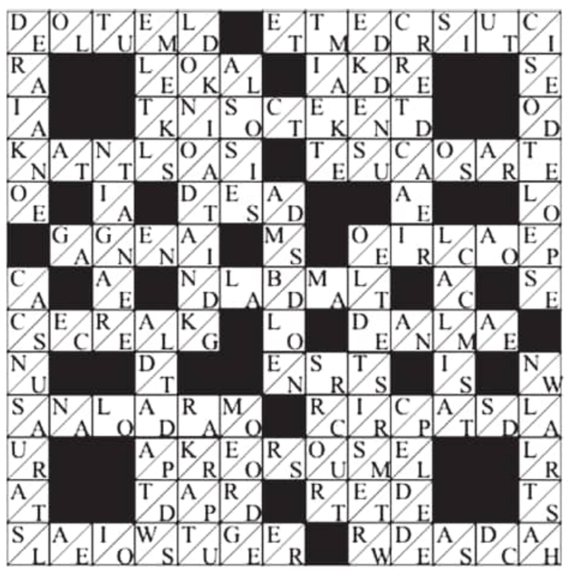
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

1 Lamps; 6 Irish; 7 Lac it; 8 RK-ish; 9 Irk my

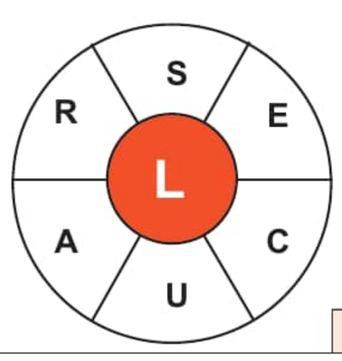
DOWN

1 Prims; 2 Chili; 3 Sitar; 4 Harks; 5 My ilk

Mensapuzzle

Which two letters are missing?

A	W
C	U
G	Q
I	O
K	M



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7	4				6	3	
1				3				9
		6	7		5	1		
	3		6		4		8	
8								4
	6		9		7		2	
		5	3		8	4		
6				4				7
	4	7				8	5	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

3 3 5 8

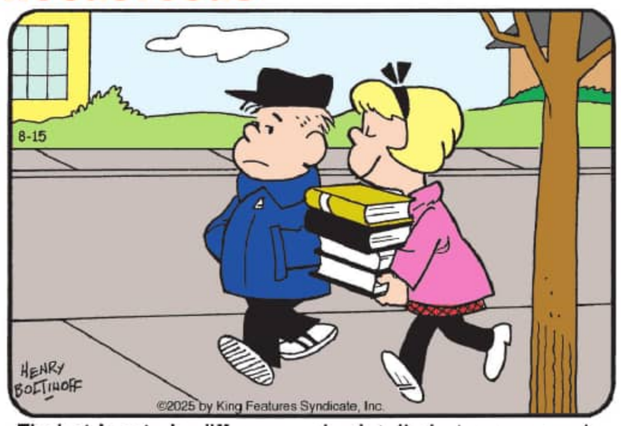
Medium = 14

2 5 9 8

Hard = 6

3 3 6 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

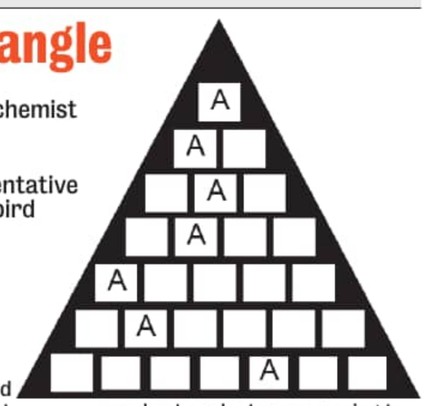
Differences: 1. Book is missing. 2. Boy's arm is not showing. 3. Skirt is longer. 4. Boy's collar is different. 5. Pocket is added to girl's coat. 6. Window is added to house.

Riddler

What connects these four things?
Bulldog Fry Horn Polish

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Astatine for the chemist
3 Work on hides
4 Piquancy
5 Business representative
6 Heavily built seabird
7 Shipping figure

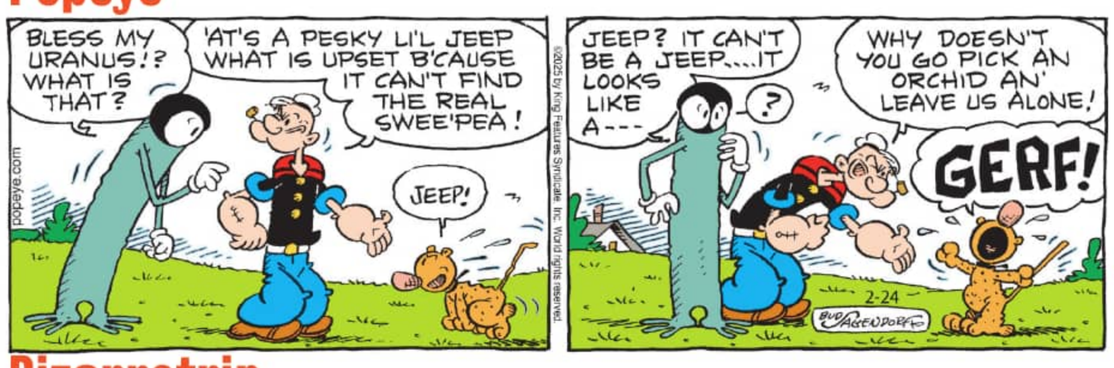


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


BLESS MY URANUS!? WHAT IS THAT?
'AT'S A PESKY LI'L JEEP WHAT IS UPSET B'CAUSE IT CAN'T FIND THE REAL SWEE'PEA!
JEEP!
JEEP? IT CAN'T BE A JEEP....IT LOOKS LIKE A---
?
WHY DOESN'T YOU GO PICK AN ORCHID AN' LEAVE US ALONE!
GERF!
2-24
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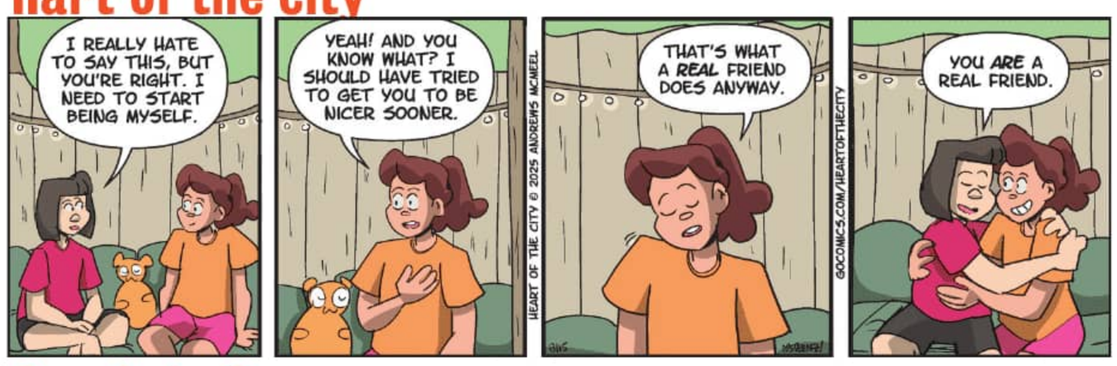
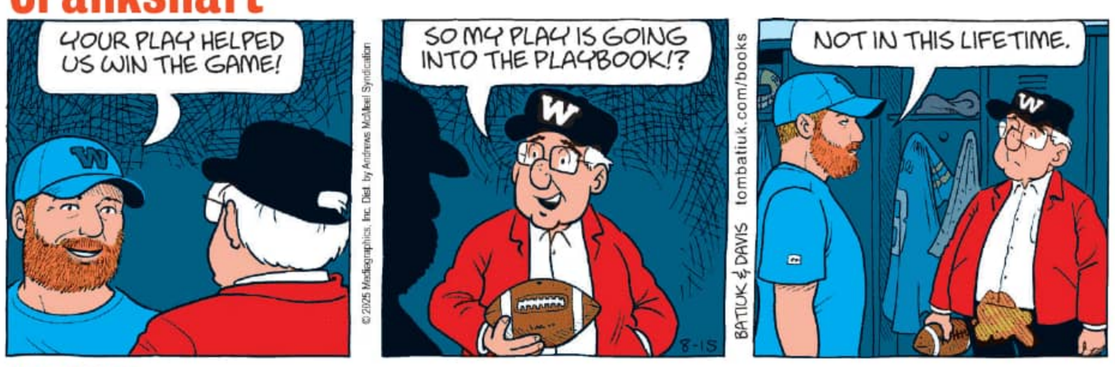
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I REALLY HATE TO SAY THIS, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEED TO START BEING MYSELF.
YEAH! AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO GET YOU TO BE NICER SOONER.
THAT'S WHAT A REAL FRIEND DOES ANYWAY.
YOU ARE A REAL FRIEND.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


YOUR PLAY HELPED US WIN THE GAME!
SO MY PLAY IS GOING INTO THE PLAYBOOK!?
NOT IN THIS LIFETIME.
© 2025 Madiographics, Inc. Dist by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
8-15

Mutts

SHTINKY! WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE BEACH?
I DUNNO... I GUESS I'M LOST.
OH... ONE CAN NEVER BE LOST. THERE'S ALWAYS THE NORTH STAR!
YES.
BUT...
I DON'T LIVE THERE.
8-15
mutts.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your truly innovative ideas bring a surge of quick progress to your career and attract new funding. Finances benefit greatly from smart, future-forward technological investments. Love is unique and delightfully unconventional; embrace a partner who champions your strong individuality. Family ties are strengthened through a successful joint community eort.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today's blues fade when you reconnect with joy. Dance, laugh, talk to your coee, and reignite confidence. Authority feels restricting, but remember, you're untameable fire, powerful beyond measure, unstoppable when grounded.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Free yourself from past chains. Destiny favours you now; step outside hesitation and take charge. Stop waiting; create the life you desire. Courage transforms dreams into tangible, fulfilling reality.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You've done the work, now shine. Trust intuition and embrace self-worth without selfsabotage. Collaboration thrives when balanced. Reflect deeply, plan wisely, and align your long-term goals with authentic purpose.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Happiness feels close, yet stress lingers beneath. Acknowledge your emotions and act. Ignoring red flags hinders peace; address what matters now to reclaim balance and restore your joyful flow.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Take control, release toxic ties and uncertainty. Let go to make space for aligned connections. Risk creates growth; roll the dice, trust yourself, and watch new opportunities ignite transformation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Balance brings success. Breathe deeply, ground yourself, and honour progress made. Your intuition guides you; align with changing energies wisely to maintain stability, growth, and emotional clarity today.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Lead with grace and integrity. Your eorts inspire balance in others. The universe rewards your generosity; keep shining compassionately, creating harmony and ripples of lasting positivity wherever you go.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Hard work defines your path. Though restless, stay patient. Progress grows quietly beneath diligence. Avoid impulsive exits; your persistence now builds stability, clarity, and success in time's perfect rhythm.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Choose intentionally. Freedom means mindful focus, not endless action. Just because you can doesn't mean you should. Prioritise what fuels your growth, and trust courage to redirect your destiny.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Pain transforms, it refines your spirit. Through heartbreak comes awakening, revealing depth and resilience. Today's insight reshapes your future; let inner fire illuminate growth and acceptance in transformative healing.

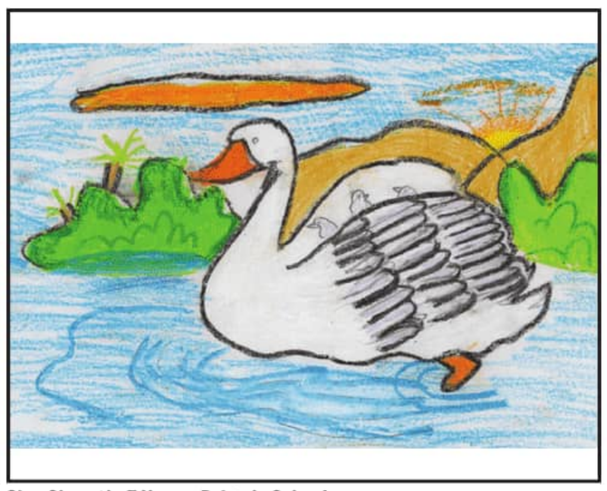
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
New beginnings bloom. Juggle responsibilities with awareness, balancing freedom and focus. Whether nurturing children, projects, or dreams, choose rationally. Flexibility sustains progress; trust the universe's green light forward.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Build upon experience. Layer talents, visions, and lessons to create something lasting. Determination and purpose guide success; find meaning in small joys that nurture inspiration and soulful fulfilment.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Moinuddin, 7 Years, Hrha English School



Siya Sharath, 7 Years, Brigade School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
a^b=-1
1/a+1/b=7.875
-b+1/b=7.875
b^2+1=-7.875b
b^2+7.875b-1=0
b=-8, .125
a=1/8, -8

RIDDLER
They can all follow the word French

STRIKE OUT

D	O	T	E	D		E	M	E	R	I	T	I	S	
R		L	O	L		I	K	E					O	
A		K	N	O	C	K	E	D					O	
K	A	N	S	A	S		E	S	C	O	R	T		
E		I		T	E	A		A					O	
A	G	N	I		M		O	R	L	O	P			
A		E		N	A	B	A	L		A		E		
S	C	R	A	G		L		D	A	M	E			
U			D			E	S	T		I		W		
S	A	L	A	A	M		C	I	C	A	D	A		
	U		P	R	E	S	U	M	E			L		
A		T	A	D		T	E	D				S		
I	C	I	T	A	L									
S	H	I		R	K									
R	I	S	H	I										
P	L	A	S	M										

FAST FIVE

M	I	R	K	Y
S	H	I		K
I	C	T	A	L
R	I	S	H	I
P	L	A	S	M

QUOTE UNCODE
For fast-acting relief try slowing down.

QUICK

T	R	A	N	S	F	O	R	M	E	R				N
E		T		A		R		O		A				O
D	E	V	O	U	T		B	H	A	J	U	I		S
E		L		E	R	I		T		A	S	S	E	L
V	I	L	L	A	S		T	A	S	S		E	L	
E		E		D				N		C			A	
G	O	G	G	L	E		E	G	O	I	S	M		
O		I		E			H	O	B	O	N	B		
W	A	T	E	R	S			L		O		A		
D		A		A	L	A		A						
A	B	A	T	E	D		R	E	N	T		E	D	
A														A
A	G	O	N	Y	C	O	L	U	M					N

MENSA PUZZLE
E & S. Starting on the left and going down, then up the right column, letters advance in steps of two.

BULL'S EYE
clause, clear, clue, cruel, curl, earl, lace, laser, lucre, lure, real, rule, sale, scale, seal, SECULAR, slur, ulcer

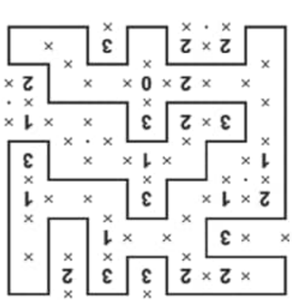
SUDOKU

9	4	7	8	1	6	2	5	3
6	8	3	5	4	9	2	1	7
2	1	5	3	7	8	4	9	6
4	6	1	9	8	7	3	2	5
8	5	9	2	1	3	7	6	4
7	3	2	6	5	4	9	8	1
3	9	6	7	2	5	1	4	8
1	2	8	4	3	6	5	7	9
5	7	4	8	9	1	6	3	2

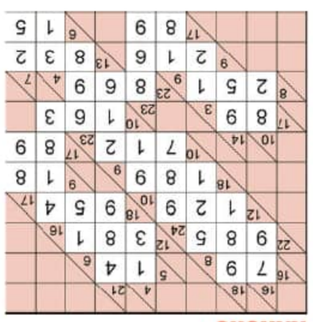
ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, At, Tan, Tang, Agent, Gannet, Tonnage.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 8 + 3 + 3 = 3
Medium
2 + 8 + 9 - 5 = 14
Hard
3 x 3 - 9 + 6 = 6

LOOP



KAKURO



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